Numb. 29.

THE REHEARSAL Of Obſervator, &c.

Of the Diſſenters *Obſervation of the* 30*th of* January. *And the* Nature *of their* Faſts.

From Saturday February the 10th, to Saturday February the 17th, 1705.

Country-m. WHere waſt thou, *Maſter*, laſt 30th of *January*.

Obſ. I obſerv'd it moſt *Religiouſly*! It was our *Lecture-Day* at *Salters-Hall*. Which thou know'ſt may paſs for our *Obſervance* of the *Day*! And then I went to our *CALVES-HEAD Refreſhment* in *Southwark*, where we Sung *Anthems*, and Drank ſuitable *Healths*, as to the *Pious Memory* of that Noble *Britain* who *Struck* the *Stroke*, and *Cut* off the *Head* of that *Anti-Chriſtian Tyrant*, &c. Of which I am told *Complaint* has been made. And it may Prove a ſecond *Tryal* of the *Obſervator*! For ſince I am come off, *WE* now Fear none of theſe things!

Country-m. But dosn't the Law Require *YOUR Conventicles* to be ſhut up that *Day*, as well as the *Shops*? Where they *Sell* not half ſuch *Sophiſticated WARE*, and by ſuch *Falſe LIGHTS*.

Obſ And *WE Obſerve* the *One* as well as the *Other*. Do'ſt think *WE* wou'd put off one of our *Lecture-Days*, for *YOUR Madding-Day*? In Obedience to *YOUR Epiſcopal*, *Tory-Rory*, *Tantivy ACTS OF PARLIAMENT*.

Country-m. But if not in *Obedience*, yet Methinks, in *Compleſance* to the *Queen*, it being in *Memory* of her *Royal Grand-Father*!

Obſ. WE never *Complement* away our *Rights*. *WE* know what uſe is Made of *Precedents*.

T'other Year her *Majeſty* was Pleas'd to ſend her *Letter* to the Lord *Mayor* Deſiring the *Shops* to be ſhut up on *Good-Friday*, and the *Day* Obſerv'd as it ought to be. His *Lordſhip* accordingly ſent his *Officers* about to ſee the *Shops* ſhut up. But they Coming to one of *OUR Friends*, he Refus'd to do it (as *WE* Generally *All* did) And the *Officers* threatning to *ſhut* it up for him, he ſtood upon his *Pantoffles*, and bade them do it at their *Peril*; for the *Queen* did but *Deſire* it, which left him at his Liberty to *Grant* it, or *Refuſe*! What! Do'ſt think, That *WE* who ſtand it out *Bluff* againſt the *Laws*, will be *Wheedel'd* by their *Petitioning*!

WE keep the 30th of *January*, as *WE* do *Good-Friday*, in *Feaſting* and *Gratifying* our *Carcaſs*. Not by way of *Senſuality*, but only in *Spite*. Becauſe theſe are no *Days* for *US*!

Country-m. Then, by the ſame *Spirit* of *Contradiction*, *YOU* ought to *Faſt* at *Chriſtmas*, and all the Reſt of *OUR Feſtivals*.

Obſ. What ſhou'd *WE* get by that? *Hungery Bellies*! No. We thank you, you ſhall never Catch *US* at that! *WE* Renounce *Faſting*, *Mortification*, and keeping under the *Body*, as Rank *Popery*. If theſe be not *Popery*, there is not a Word of *Senſe* in all *WE* have ſaid againſt the *Church* of *England*. *WE* never *Faſt*, but when *WE* are Really *Griev'd* at the *Heart*, as when the *Church* or the *Crown* gains any *Advantage* over *US*; Or, when *WE* have ſome *Deſign* in hand againſt *Them*. As Now *WE* are *Faſting* and *Praying* like *Mad* in *Scotland*, for the *Extirpation* of *Popery*, and all *Tendency* thereto, as the *Order* of the *General Aſſembly* words it, which the *Poſt-Man*, N. 1340 has given Us at full Length. And this *TENDENCY thereto*, they Sufficiently Explain'd to be *Prelacy*, which they Call a *Ragg* of the *Whore* of *Babilon*. And have *Vow'd* their *Lives* and *Fortunes* to Extirpate *Prelacy* by *Name*, in the *New Aſſociations* of both their *Provincial Synods*, which are likewiſe in *Print*. And tho *Prelacy* is *Aboliſh'd* there by *Law*. Yet *WE* are Now *Faſting* for ſomething Elſe, that is, to Stir up *OUR People*, (whom *FASTING Irritates* beyond any thing, being ſo little Us'd to it) to make Uſe of their *Power*, while it is in their Hands, to *Seize* and *Diſarm* all that they ſuſpect are not *Well-Affected*, &c. as in the *Overtures* thou haſt *Rehears'd*, N 26. to make *ROOT and BRANCH Work* with them, That they never Riſe up any more, to Turn *US* out, as they did Before. And to do the ſame in *England*, when *WE* their *Good Brethren HERE*, ſhall Help *Them* and their *Covenant HITHER*, as *WE* did Before. For theſe things *WE Faſt*. And you will find none other *Faſts* among *US*, from *Forty* to *Sixty*, nor *ſince*. Therefore the *Cavaliers* Us'd to be Terribly *Afraid* of *Our Faſts*. They were ſure then, there was ſome *Miſchief* a *Brewing*! It was like Hanging out the *Bloody Flag*. Theſe are *OCCASIONAL Faſts*, for a *Valuable Conſideration*. To do *Buſineſs*. To *Inſpirit OUR Legion*, and *Intimidate OUR Foes*. For the ſame Reaſon, *WE* had *Feſtivals* and *Thanks-Givings* too, *OCCASIONALLY*, as when *WE* obtain'd a *Victory* over the *King*, or ſo. But for your *CHRISTIAN Feaſts* and *Faſts*—— And to make them *Anniverſary* too, as if never to be *Forgotten*, that *Our SOULS Abhor*.

Country-m. Why? *YOU* Generally keep the 5th of *November*. And that is an *Anniverſary*.

Obſ. O! That is for *Buſineſs* too. It is againſt the *Papiſhes*. But the 30th of *January*, is kept with *US*, like the *Second Commandment* with *Them*, as much out of ſight as *WE* can. It brings our *Sins* (*WE* Daily *Practice*) to Remembrance. Which muſt be *Ungrateful*, while *WE* Reſolve not to *Amend*. I'd rather *Junket* with you at *Chriſtmas*, than *Faſt* with you on the 30th of *January*.

Country-m. If you Come to me at *Chriſtmas*, I'll make you *Faſt*, out of *Spite*.

Obſ. No. I'll *Eat* out of *Spite*. And *Faſt* too. that is, *EAT Faſt*, and *DRINK Faſt*. To *Deſtroy* your *Minc'd-Pyes*, and *Plumb-Porrage*, and *Guzzle* your *Old Ale*, that theſe *Superſtitious* things may be *Diſpach'd* Quickly out of the way. And then I'll entertain you with a *Yule Sermon*.

Country-m. Thou ſhalt *Break* thy *Neck*, as ſoon as thy *Faſt* with me, at that Rate. We ought not to Receive *ſuch* into our *Houſes*, nor to bid them *God ſpeed*, leſt we be *Partakers* of their *Evil Deeds*. Thou did'ſt not *Faſt* laſt 30th of *January*, I'll Warrant thee. Waſt thou at *Church* that Day?

Obſ.

Obs. As I told thee, it happen'd this Year upon a *Tuesday*, which is a *Lecture-Day* with *US* at *Salters-Hall*.

Country-m. How did you *Perform* there? Did you take any Notice of the *Day*?

Obs. Yes, WE did. And Sung the 23th, and 24th *Verses* of the 118 *Psalm*, which are these;

This was the mighty Work of God,
This was the Lord's own Fact;
And it is wondrous to behold
With Eyes that Noble Act.
This is the Joyful Day indeed,
Which God himself hath wrought;
Let us be Glad and Joy therein,
In heart in mind and thought.

Country-m. O *Devils*! *Devils Incarnate*!

Obs. What! For Repeating the words of *Holy Scripture*?

Country-m. The *Devil*, whose *Children* YE are, *Tempted* our *Blessed LORD*, what a *Text* of *Scripture* every time.

The applying of *Holy Scripture* to *Evil* purposes, Aggravates the *Wickedness* even to *Blasphemy*! For which Reason, this *YOUR Rejoicing* at *Salters-Hall*, in what you call *Divine Service*, Exceeds, by Far, the Openly *Prophane* and *Rebellious Songs* of *YOUR Calves-Head-Feasts*, which you call *Anthems*, in *Ridicule* of all things *Sacred*.

And as if *Calves-Head*, and *Salters-Hall* were not sufficient *Indications* of *YOUR Godly* Intentions, We have another Instance of a *Dissenter*, living not far from *Bartholomew-Close*, who on the 30th of *January* last 1704, did *Erect* a *CALVES-HEAD upon a Publick place over his SHOP or HOUSE, to the View of a promiscuous Crowd of Neighbours, who are Ready to make OATH of the same.*

Obs. This you have in one of *OUR* Precious *Papers*, call'd *Truth and Honesty*, Printed on the Back of *The London Post*, N. 1022. (see how long WE have *Reign'd*!) But there are several *Excuses* set down there on Behalf of the *Dissenters*, which thou shoud'st *Answer* when you Repeat the *Objection*.

Country-m. Let's hear them.

Obs. He was one call'd a *Dissenter*.

Country-m. Was he not a *Dissenter*?

Obs. Yes. But he was *Call'd* so!

Country-m. Well. Go on to the next.

Obs. He has brought a *Publick Affront and Reproach upon the DISSENTERS in General, who Abhor and Condemn all such Barbarous Proceedings.*

Country-m. Why then do not they *Excommunicate* him? For the *Law* takes Hold of no *Excommunications*, but those of the *Church* of *England*. All the Rest are *Free*, and not *Cognizable* by any *Secular Courts*. What *Sign* or *Mark* of *Displeasure* have they Put upon him for this *Barbarous Proceeding*? Or have they *Oblig'd* him to a *Recantation*, and as *Publick* a *Confession* of his *Fault*, as the *Scandal* was *Notorious*?

Obs. It is not the way of the *Dissenters*, to *Punish* any *Fault* which they don't *Dis-Like*. Or which do's them no *Harm*. And this shews their *Moderation*! As their seeming to *Dis-own* it to others, shews their *Prudence*!

But I go on. He says in the next place, That *he* (that *Dissenter* who set up the *Calves-Head*) *hath been heard to Justify the Proceedings of Forty-One, to such a degree, that good manners hath forsook him, and deliver'd him over to the Language of the Beast.*

Country-m. This is an Exact *Description* of my *Master NOBBS*. His *De-Collation* and *De-Trunkation* of K. *Charles* I. And sending his *Son*, like *Cain*, a *Vagabond* and *Fugitive* on the Earth; And *Triumphing* over them in it, saying, *They won'd have done it sooner, if they con'd.* And Justifying all those who had any hand in Either of their *Tragedies*. As thou do'st in thy *Observator*, Vol. 2. N. 89.

And upon the Head of Maintaining the *Principles* of 41, what one single *Person* of all the *Whigs* and *Dissenters* can be *Excepted*? What one of them do's not *Justify* the 41. *Principle* of *Power* in the *People*, even to *Coerce* their *Kings*? It was *This*! *This*! Which Cut off the *Kings* Head. It was not the *Ax*, but the *Hand* that *Struck* with it; It was not the *Hand*, but those who *Impower'd* him; it was not those who *Impower'd* him, but the *Principle* which Possess'd them, that was the *Original* and *Formal EXECUTIONER*. And whoever hold the same *Principle*, must be *Ready* for the same *Work* again, if they will be *True* to *Themselves*. They Cannot say, That K. *Char.* I. did suffer *Unjustly*, because he deny'd the *Jurisdiction* of the *Court*, and Refus'd to *Plead*. He won'd not own the *Sovereign Authority* of the *People*. Which was the *Highest Treason*, if the *Principles* of *Forty-One* be True. And he Deserv'd to *Die*, like a *Criminal* that stands *Mute*, whether he was *Guilty* of the Particular *Facts* Charg'd upon him, or not. And whoever hold these *Principles* are *Calves-Head-Men*, whether they Go to their *Feasts* or not. And with whatever *Good Manners* they Express themselves, and not in the *Language* of the *Beast*; as thou, my *DIRTY Master*, Uses to do, to the *Scandal* even of thy Own *Scandalous* Party!

Obs. But he has another *Excuse*. That the *Calves-Head* was *his own* And might he not do what he Pleases with his own?

Country-m. If his own *Calves-Head* had been set up, on the *Top* of his *House*; instead of the more Innocent *Beast*, whose *Head* he Plac'd there, it wou'd have been of better *Instruction* to his *Neighbourhood*, than the *Emblem* he set up.

Obs. Thou rt for *Persecution*.

Country-m. Is *Stealing* a *Horse*, or *Robbing* on the *High-way* a *Crime* Equal to this? To *Trample* upon *Majesty*, and *Dissolve* the whole *Foundation* of *Government* throughout the *World*! To *Affront* our *Laws*, while they stand in *Force*! And to *Propagate* such *Principles*, as make it *Impossible* for us to have *Peace* or *Settlement*, to the *End* of the *World*! And while all the Rest of the *Nation* are *Humbling* themselves before *God*, in *Fasting* and *Prayer*, to *Deprecate* the *Sin* of these *Miscreants*, as the *Proclamation* Read in Our *Churches* (of which I told thee in my Last) Justly Calls them; That they themselves shou'd be *Ridiculing* our *Charity* for them, and *Re-Acting* the same most Horrid *Wickedness*, for which We *Mourn*, in *Circumstances*, which *Exceed*, after so long Time past, even the Dismal *Tragedy* of the *Day*; And Provoking *God* to send still more *Vengeance* upon the *Nation*, for that *Blood* which is thus Daily *Shed* over again; And will not suffer *HIS Indignation* to Sleep! This is a *PIACULAR Sin*, for which the *Nation*, and our *Posterity* are *Answerable*, till they *Punish* it, as it *Deserves*. And next to the *Shedding* of that *Royal* and *Innocent BLOOD*, the *Pardoning* of it is the Greatest *Crime*, or suffering these *Cursed* as well as *Senseless PRINCIPLES* to *Live* (as far as in our Power) which, as I said before, were the *Executioner*.

And if this be *Persecution*, it is to *Us* and to our *Children*, from whom *His BLOOD* cannot otherwise be *Remov'd*.

We *Feel* it to this Day. All that has Befall'n *Us* *Since*, and what We have still in *Prospect*, being the *GENUIN Effects*, and *NATURAL Product* of that *BITTER Root* of *Power* in the *People*. We may say of this, as the *Jews* did of the *Golden-Calf*, That there was a *Grain* of it, in all their after *Judgments*.

What a *Mocking* of *God* is it, To *Pray* that the *Guilt* of that *Blood* may be taken off from *Us*, while we *Hugg* the *Principle* that *Shed* it: And take those into our *Bosom*, who *Promote* that same *Principle*, and *Glory* in it!

There is something in this, Exceeds even the *Horror* of the *Calves-Head-Feasts*!

He that *Owns* that *Principle*, is a *Pilate*: And he that *Dares* not *Dis-own* it, is a *Judas*. And he who Thinks *Twice* of it, and can *Believe* it, is *Proof* against *Contradiction*; And Denies the *Authority* of *Holy Scripture*!

ADVERTISEMENT.

IN the *Overtures*, &c. of the *Presbyterians* in *Scotland*, Printed, N. 26. the word *Decline* [*Seize and Decline*] shou'd be *Dis-Arm*.

In the last *Rehearsal*, where it is said the *Proclamation* was Read the 28th of *December*, it shou'd be the 28th of *January*.

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